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9. (Amended) A smart card comprising:

a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with the one particular household but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households; and
a data storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.

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21. (Twice Amended) A method of decrypting media content, the method comprising:

checking whether a smart card is authorized to decrypt the media content, wherein the smart card stores a decryption key and additional data;

determining that the smart card is authorized to decrypt the media content only if data other than electronic money or a decryption key is stored as the additional data on the smart card, wherein the data is expected to be of value to a user; and

decrypting the media content only if the smart card is authorized to decrypt the media content.

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26. (Amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of smart cards, each to be used for encrypting different categories of media content; and

an encryption module coupled to receive media content and encrypt, at the user's home, the media content based on a key maintained on one of the plurality of smart cards.

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29. (Amended) A method of allowing parental control over media content, the method comprising:

- receiving media content;
- encrypting the received media content based on a household identifier corresponding to a smart card, wherein the household identifier is associated with one household; and
- requiring the smart card to be present to decrypt and render the media content.

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35. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the comparing comprises comparing the rating corresponding to the media content to the rating associated with the smart card as stored on the smart card.

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40. (Amended) A smart card comprising:

- a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with the one particular household but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households; and
- a user-specific information storage section to store user preferences.

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45. (Amended) A method comprising:

- maintaining, on a smart card, information regarding a user's preferences corresponding to media content; and

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maintaining, on a smart card, a key to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with one particular household but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households.

55. (New) A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the user preferences comprise one or more channels preferred by the user.

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56. (New) A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the user preferences comprise one or more viewing times preferred by the user.

57. (New) A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the user preferences comprise one or more types of content preferred by the user.
